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### Message

Re: Application No.: 10/535,166

Attached please find proposed language for claim 21, per our earlier discussion.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If this transmission is incomplete, please call 312-558-6294.

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Thank you.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for generating a bit stream comprising:

providing an indexing tree including a plurality of hierarchy levels, ~~wherein~~ and each hierarchy level is assigned one or more index nodes, and wherein the index nodes contain index data ~~which~~ that is sorted in the indexing tree according to one or more predetermined criteria;

designating an index node as a parent node;

designating other index nodes as child nodes, ~~with~~ wherein at least one child node ~~branching off branches~~ from the parent node and wherein the at least one said child node ~~being is~~ located in a lower hierarchy level;

inserting and sorting index data of the index nodes into the bit stream, ~~whereby~~ wherein, following insertion of the index data of the parent node, the index data of the at least one child node ~~follows a first node after~~ is offset by one node following the parent node in the indexing tree on account of the sorting and is inserted without information indicating at which position the index data of said at least one child node is located in the bit stream; and

inserting information into the bit stream in each case for a child node which ~~does not follow first after~~ is not offset by the one node following the parent node, said information indicating at which position in the bit stream the index data of said child node is located.